

I am a retired broadcast journalist, having spent 35 years reporting from all over the world.

I always reported for radio as well as TV. Before my network years, I was a radio reporter for a local station that was proud of its commitment to news and documentaries. they no longer do much news and public affairs programming.

Without specific rules by the FCC, stations will do as little news and informational programming as they can. It's a public service and not regarded as a profit center. I've seen that in my own experience. I urge you to establish rules that encourage local stations to serve the public, and in some way penalize them if they do not.

Local programming should not be packaged from some central source with room for local inserts. It should be genuinely produced in house for the local market.

While it's good public relations for stations to participate in the community, that should not be a substitute for local programs.

I urge you to keep in mind not only the interests of broadcast journalists who want to do their job, but also to seriously consider the public interest in your decisions.